United Nations A/C.2/67/SR.35

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
7 January 2013

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 35th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 11 December 2012 at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Talbot ..... (Guyana)

Contents

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) External debt sustainability and development *(continued)*

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)

Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*)

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(b) South-South cooperation (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

12-64251 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) External debt sustainability and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.28 and A/C.2/67/L.56)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.56: External debt sustainability and development

1. **Mr. Landveld** (Suriname) drew attention to some revisions to the text. In the twentieth preambular paragraph the words "framework for" should be deleted.

2. **Ms. Camacho** (Mexico) said that she would contact the Secretariat about amendments to be made to the twenty-eighth preambular paragraph of the Spanish version of the text.

3. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.56, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

5. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that while her delegation welcomed the adoption of the resolution, its tone suggested that efforts to address debt sustainability, particularly among least developed countries, had been inadequate. Her delegation did not interpret the language of the resolution as endorsing that point of view. In fact, as had been confirmed by the World Bank's report on Global Development Finance 2012, developing countries had seen a marked and almost continuous improvement in the sustainability of their external debt, as measured by the ratio of external debt service to export earnings over the past decade. More notable still was the improvement in low-income countries, where the average debt service to export ratio had fallen from 17.2 per cent in 1995 to 4.8 per cent in 2010. The World Bank had attributed that improvement to increased export earnings and debt restructuring together with outright debt relief from official and private creditors in the context of highly indebted poor countries and multilateral debt relief initiatives. The importance of the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, created by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, in ensuring that those gains were maintained should also be noted.

6. While it was true that some debtors continued to face difficulties in servicing their debts, her delegation underscored the efficacy of current mechanisms in addressing the payment difficulties experienced by debtor countries and saw no credible evidence of the need to create new mechanisms.

7. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.28 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.27 and A/C.2/67/L.58)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.58: Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

8. **Mr. Muktamar** (Indonesia) drew attention to a number of editorial corrections to be made to the text. The eleventh preambular paragraph should be amended to read the "report of the tenth session". The words "financial, human and technical" in the second line of paragraph 5 should be put in brackets and place after "resources". The sixth line of that paragraph should be amended to read "welcomes the decision by parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eleventh meeting" with a footnote inserted after the word "decision" that should read: "Decision XI/4 of the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Review of implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, including the establishment of targets", as had been agreed during the negotiations. The final lines of paragraph 13 should be modified to read: "the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation as well as of decision XI/2 entitled 'Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties';". Lastly, in paragraphs 5 and 13, there should be no footnotes attached.

9. **The Chair** noted that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.58, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

11. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that as her delegation firmly supported the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity it had chosen to join the consensus on the resolution. However, it understood that references to Governments, in the

context of encouraging or calling for action, referred to those Governments that were parties to the Convention. As a non-party to the Convention, the United States was not involved in decision-making by the Convention's bodies and was not in a position to welcome all of the outcomes and decisions made by the parties.

12. Moreover, while work under the Convention could do much to further sustainable development, such work was governed by the terms and mandate of the Convention and not by other instruments referred to in the resolution.

13. **Mr. Mamani** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his delegation was concerned by the commodification of biodiversity and nature, a business that would benefit a few while the majority remained poor. In that connection, he reiterated the position taken by his delegation at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.27 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.22 and A/C.2/67/L.59)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.59: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)

15. **The Chair** said that as the Secretariat had not yet finalized the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, its consideration would be postponed to the Committee's next plenary meeting.

16. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) South-South cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.8 and A/C.2/67/L.57)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.57: South-South cooperation

17. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action of the draft resolution, which was being submitted by Mr. Mero (United Republic of Tanzania), Vice-Chair, on the basis of informal consultations on document A/C.2/67/L.8. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **Mr. Mugodo** (Kenya) said that paragraph 5 should end after the phrase "fragmentation of financing arrangements", the final three lines should therefore be deleted.

20. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.57, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.8 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.